

Docket No.

F-146A

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

A Polyaxial Pedicle Screw Having A Threaded And Tapered Compression Locking Mechanism

the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number

and was amended

on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

| (Number) | (Country) | Day/Month/Year Filed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C.F.R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

08/606,221 February 23, 1996 issued (5,607,426)
(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (patented, pending, abandoned)

08/843,972 April 17, 1997 pending
(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Docket No.

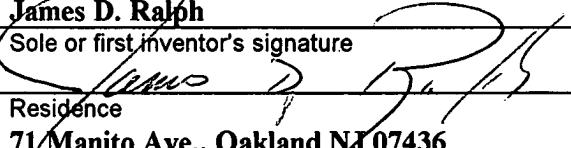
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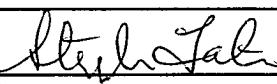
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (*list name and registration number*)

Joseph P. Errico, Esq.
Reg. No. 38,131

Send Correspondence to: **Joseph P. Errico**
150 Douglas Rd.
Far Hills, NJ 07931

Direct Telephone Calls to: (*name and telephone number*)
Joseph P. Errico
(908) 234-1808

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Full name of sole or first inventor James D. Ralph | |
| Sole or first inventor's signature  | Date 12-29-97 |
| Residence 71 Manito Ave., Oakland NJ 07436 | |
| Citizenship USA | |
| Post Office Address same as above | |
| | |

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Full name of second inventor, if any Stephen Tatar | |
| Second inventor's signature  | Date 12/29/97 |
| Residence 45 Upper Mountain Ave., Montvale NJ 07045 | |
| Citizenship USA | |
| Post Office Address same as above | |
| | |

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|--|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS | | | | Docket No. F-146A |
| Serial No. | Filing Date January 2, 1998 | Patent No. | Issue Date | |
| Applicant/ Patentee: James D. Ralph and Steven Tatar | | | | |
| Invention: A Polyaxial Pedicle Screw Having A Threaded And Tapered Compression Locking Mechanism | | | | |

I hereby declare that I am:

- the owner of the small business concern identified below:
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: **Fastenetix, LLC**
 ADDRESS OF CONCERN: **47 Maple Ave., Suite L-28, Summit, NJ 07901**

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the above identified invention described in:

- the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
 the application identified above.
 the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed on the next page and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- no such person, concern or organization exists.
 each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS NAME _____

Individual Small Business Concern Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS NAME _____

Individual Small Business Concern Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS NAME _____

Individual Small Business Concern Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS NAME _____

Individual Small Business Concern Nonprofit Organization

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Thomas J. Errico
 TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING
 OTHER THAN OWNER: President
 ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: 5 Crest Acre Ct.
 Summit, NJ 07901

SIGNATURE: Thomas J. Errico DATE: 10/29/97